Dear Dave, 4/8/92

I began to celebrate my 79th at 12:55 this a.m. It is now 5:30, I've gone through the Post and spent the rest of the time getting more and more uncomfortable and unwilling to continue in High Treason 2. This hasty FYI while I await my being driven to Johns Hopkins for a shot and possible consultation.

The deeper I got into the book the more uneasy I became and the more I wondered how rational Harry was when he wrote it. In the past he has made reference to emotional problems that he attributed to medical problems. There were times I was convinced he is paranoid and other times when he is pleasant, affable, friendly, thoughtful and seems to be absolutely normal.

While I made many notes I also skipped extensively, more than I've indicated. on the book.

Aside from the fact that he goes for all the nuts and nuttiness and remains grossly ignorant of established fact and has devoted himself to a really extensive series of interviews with mostly medical personnel and even located and interviewed some not known to have been involved, including at the autopsy, in itself quite an effort and accomplishment, it is clear that he remains ignorant of much established fact and largely of the entirely of the FBI's Commission's material. And although he lists it in his bibliography and makes a few slight references to it, of my books. He had never had any real interest in any of my FOIA records.

So, this is a wild one, wooly, fuzzy, self-contradictory, even on consecutive pages, disjointed, repetitious and largely irrational when not absolutely impossible. Yet it got a fine Kirkus review of which he sent me a copy!

I fear also that he got the Baltimore policeman (Richard Wright) who helped him fired. In a number of referecnes to him, several times as "my chief investigator," he did say he was a policeman at the same time. This, of course, whatever he had in mind, was self-puffery.

The closer I got to the end (more than 600 pp) and especially this morning the more I worried about his state of mind when he wrote it. Too much simply is not rational. Not detecting at least some of this is far below his intelligence. What does theory of editing?

I never made any public comment about his first book and I certainly won't on this one, in part because of what I think his state of mind was in the recent past and may continue to be. I do not even intend telling him what I think of this one. I think I'll restrict myself to repeating that he still has not answered my original question, why would anyone create fakes of any kind that destroy the purpose of making any fakes, which is to support the official mythology. I fear he can be dangerous and I'm now not able to defend msyelf and I believe he thinks this is a major work if not a masterpiece.

His publisher-arranged tour (he says $300,000 will be spent on advertising and promos) begins in 10 days, 4/20. I do not know the details.